

Message

From: Thomas, Deb [thomas.debrah@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/26/2016 5:33:13 PM
To: Hestmark, Martin [Hestmark.Martin@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Urgent Columbia Falls

I don't think so. There are internal only messages mixed in. Can we stick with if the site is listed it would not be before fall 2016? Please clearly identify the top external messages.

Deb

On Jan 26, 2016, at 10:29 AM, Hestmark, Martin <Hestmark.Martin@epa.gov> wrote:

I think these are the top messages aren't they? Am I missing something?

From: Thomas, Deb
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 10:28 AM
To: Hestmark, Martin <Hestmark.Martin@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Urgent Columbia Falls

Martin,

As we discussed this morning, now that you have confirmation from HQ on listing process, please put the top messages for external communication on CFAP in one email.

On Jan 26, 2016, at 10:09 AM, Hestmark, Martin <Hestmark.Martin@epa.gov> wrote:

So HQ is on hold and will not finalize the listing for CFAC w/o our input. Our messages are the same as they were at the time of the AOC finalization. We are considering whether to finalize the listing and/or whether/when to process this site via the Superfund alternative approach. We are going to develop pros and cons for listing with ECEJ and for a briefing up the management chain. We will then define our proposed approach for consideration with the state. Recall we have a Governors letter encouraging the site be listed. Wherever we land as to listing, our approach needs to be discussed with the state and then likely coordinated with Tester's office (or have the Gov and Tester consider how to coordinate).

Johanna/Joe/Mike – please work with ECEJ to develop the Pros and Cons of listing and then lets get this briefed up.

From: Miller, Johanna
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 9:43 AM
To: Hestmark, Martin <Hestmark.Martin@epa.gov>; Murray, Bill <Murray.Bill@epa.gov>; Stavnes, Sandra <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>; Vranka, Joe <vranka.joe@epa.gov>; Madigan, Andrea <Madigan.Andrea@epa.gov>
Cc: Ketellapper, Victor <Ketellapper.Victor@epa.gov>; Parker, Robert <Parker.Robert@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Urgent Columbia Falls

Martin and all – I left messages with Dana and others in his office about putting the finalization on hold. As an fyi for the team, If the Region wants to include in the March update they would need a decision by the 3rd week in February. Johanna

From: Hestmark, Martin

Sent: Friday, January 22, 2016 4:57 PM

To: Stavnes, Sandra <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>; Murray, Bill <Murray.Bill@epa.gov>; Thomas, Deb <thomas.debrah@epa.gov>; Madigan, Andrea <Madigan.Andrea@epa.gov>; Bohan, Suzanne <bohan.suzanne@epa.gov>; Schefski, Kenneth <Schefski.Kenneth@epa.gov>; Miller, Johanna <Miller.Johanna@epa.gov>; Parker, Robert <Parker.Robert@epa.gov>

Subject: Fwd: Urgent Columbia Falls

Deb - this decision had not yet been made. Once u am briefed we will be in front of you, Shaun and Joan. There are pluses and minuses and we have differences between CFAC and Smurfit that we need to work out. There are also timing issues that complicate delaying listing .

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Thomas, Deb" <thomas.debrah@epa.gov>

Date: January 22, 2016 at 3:49:10 PM PST

To: "Hestmark, Martin" <Hestmark.Martin@epa.gov>, "Murray, Bill" <Murray.Bill@epa.gov>, "Vranka, Joe" <vranka.joe@epa.gov>, "Stavnes, Sandra" <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>

Cc: "Card, Joan" <Card.Joan@epa.gov>

Subject: Urgent Columbia Falls

See messages below. I spoke to Nichole and will need to get back in touch with her early Monday to arrange a call with Testers office. Please advise me on key messages and the accuracy of the comments attributed to EPA in the article below. Deb

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Distefano, Nichole"

<DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov>

Date: January 22, 2016 at 2:51:19 PM MST

To: "Thomas, Deb" <thomas.debrah@epa.gov>

Subject: Fwd: Hungry Horse CFAC Story

Hey Deb

I forgot Shaun was out. Can we chat about this?

On cell 202-570-8609

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Distefano, Nichole"
<DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov>
Date: January 22, 2016 at 4:04:59 PM
EST
To: "McGrath, Shaun"
<McGrath.Shaun@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Hungry Horse CFAC Story

Hey Shaun

Can we discuss?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Laslovich, Dylan
(Tester)"
<Dylan_Laslovich@test
er.senate.gov>
Date: January 22, 2016
at 4:03:50 PM EST
To: 'Distefano Nichole'
<DiStefano.Nichole@ep
a.gov>
Cc: "Campbell, Chad
(Tester)"
<Chad_Campbell@test
er.senate.gov>,
"DiLuccia, Janelle
(Tester)"
<Janelle_DiLuccia@test
er.senate.gov>
Subject: Fw: Hungry
Horse CFAC Story

Hey Nichole:

I wanted to be sure
you saw the below
story and talk about a
path forward. EPA
has been very helpful
and good at
communicating with
the community and
Sen Tester's staff on
this issue which has
led to a ton of
progress. The below
is a step in the wrong
direction and we risk

losing the good
partnership that has
been built.

I would love to get an
audience with
someone high up at
region 8 as well as
someone at national
to discuss this on
Monday. I think I
understand what the
agency is saying hear
but it wasn't well
recieved.

Sent from my BlackBe
rry 10 smartphone on
the Verizon Wireless
4G LTE network.

From: Banks, Marnee (Tester) <Marnee_Banks@tester.senate.gov>

Sent: Friday, January 22, 2016 3:27 PM

To: Campbell, Chad (Tester); Swanson, Dayna (Tester); Wise, James (Tester); L
Email; DiLuccia, Janelle (Tester)

Subject: Hungry Horse CFAC Story

**CFAC
Superfu
nd
listing
could
come as
early as
March,
compan
y,
Columbi
a Falls**

mayor oppose listing

By CHRIS PETERSON
Hungry Horse News // Jan
22, 2016

The Columbia Falls
Aluminum Co. could see a
Superfund listing as early
as March, project manager
Mike Cirian of the
Environmental Protection
Agency told a liaison panel
Thursday night.

"It could be listed this
spring, yet," Cirian told the
crowd.

The announcement came
as a surprise to panel
members, who said they
were led to believe last fall
the EPA was leaning
toward a Superfund
Alternative Approach. The
alternative would make the
company clean up the site
under Superfund
standards, but avoid an
actual Superfund listing.
County and city leaders
both want to avoid the
stigma of the Superfund
listing attached to the city's
name, particularly in the
age of Google, where the
term Columbia Falls and
Superfund could pop up in
search engines for years.
That's not something they
want, particularly as the
city looks to promote
tourism and cleaner,
lighter, industry in town.

But Cirian noted the
alternative approach has
been used only once in
EPA's Region 8, which
includes Montana, Idaho,
the Dakotas, Utah and
Colorado. Last fall, Cirian
expressed optimism that
CFAC would be a good fit.
But in Thursday's meeting,
he noted it wasn't his
decision — the move to list
would come from higher

up in the EPA's management.

"That (decision) is out of my control at this time," Cirian said.

Columbia Falls Mayor Don Barnhart was frustrated by the apparent change in tone from the EPA.

He said the city pursued having the site listed as a way to get the company to do something about the plant, which had sat idle for years after it shut down. Montana Sen. Jon Tester, a Democrat, went to bat for the city, and the site was listed on the National Priorities List, which qualifies it as a Superfund site. Testing on the site has found cyanide in the groundwater, but none at levels above safe thresholds in nearby residential wells.

"We used it as a hammer to get them going," Barnhart said.

But now the company has come to the table, so-to-speak, and recently put up a \$4 million guarantee to have a remedial investigation and feasibility study completed. Now city leaders don't want a Superfund listing.

"Let's push as a group for this alternative listing," Barnhart said.

But putting the bullet back in the barrel isn't necessarily that easy. If the EPA doesn't list the site this March, it would likely look at it again in the fall. Cirian told the crowd that if they really wanted the alternative listing, they should start writing letters to the EPA offices.

There's also politics in play. Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke,

a Republican, has always opposed listing, claiming that once sites are listed in Montana, they never come off the list. Republican Sen. Steve Daines has remained neutral on the issue, saying the decision should come from the community. Chad Campbell, an aide to Tester, told the panel that if they wanted the alternative, they should also write to Tester's office. Montana Gov. Steve Bullock has also supported Superfund listing for the site.

But the Flathead County Commissioners, all of which are Republican opposed it. County Commissioner Phil Mitchell, who sits on the panel, said the future of the site rested in lawmaker's hands.

"I think this is a political decision," he said.

The company opposes listing.

"We think we can do (the cleanup) better and faster," John Stroiazzo, an engineer and project manager for CFAC said.

Listing or not, investigation at the site will start this spring, with 43 wells to be drilled. Test results from those wells should come in February of 2017. Those tests will be the first measure of the extent of contamination at the site, which has several landfills. The entire investigation will likely take about four to five years alone, an actual cleanup could take years after that.

The liaison panel, which had been meeting every month, will now meet less frequently. Cheryl Driscoll of CFAC said each meeting costs the

company about \$25,000 in travel and employee costs. The next meeting is scheduled in May as drilling starts. There will be an on-site tour and meeting to follow. A time and date was not set.

People interested in weighing in on the Superfund listing are encouraged to contact Cirian directly at cirian.mike@epa.gov or by mail at US EPA Region 8, 108 East Ninth St. Libby, MT 59923.

Resident Ray Negron perhaps brought the best perspective to the future of the site.

"No one wants the stigma of a Superfund site, but we all want it cleaned up," he said.